



**CITY OF GREENSBORO
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GREENSBORO TRANSIT AUTHORITY BUSES HONOR ROSA PARKS
The First Seat on Every GTA Vehicle Is Reserved in Her Honor**

GREENSBORO, NC (October 31, 2005) – The Greensboro Transit Authority has joined other transit systems throughout the nation in honoring Rosa Parks. Beginning Sunday, October 30, the first seat of Greensboro Transit Authority buses was reserved with a black ribbon and bow in honor of the civil rights leader. Her refusal to give up her bus seat in 1955 started a movement that led to a Montgomery, AL bus boycott and, eventually, to the nationwide desegregation of transportation. The bows will be removed following the funeral of Rosa Parks on Wednesday, November 2.

Elizabeth James, Public Transportation Manager, said that the importance of Rosa Parks' action cannot be overstated. "Each of us owes a debt of gratitude to Rosa Parks for the higher quality of life we all enjoy due to her courageous action. With these ribbons, GTA can recognize her and the action she took while reminding individuals that everyone deserves to be treated with respect and dignity."

Jane Walker-Payne, GTA Board Chair noted the appropriateness of the recognition. "It is fitting that the GTA be part of a national recognition honoring Rosa Parks by public transit systems, since her simple act of protest in Alabama started the Civil Rights movement that spread to Greensboro."

Rosa Parks was a seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama when, in December of 1955, she refused to give up her seat on a city bus to a white passenger. The bus driver had her arrested. She was tried and convicted of violating a local ordinance. Her act sparked a citywide boycott of the bus system by blacks that lasted more than a year. The boycott resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation on city buses. Over the next four decades, she helped make her fellow Americans aware of the history of the civil rights struggle. As a pioneer in the struggle for racial equality, she was the recipient of innumerable honors, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Her example remains an inspiration to freedom-loving people everywhere.

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The City of Greensboro works in partnership with the community to increase the quality of life for all residents by fostering an environment of inclusion, diversity, and trust. As the seventh largest employer in Greensboro, the City has a dedicated professional staff of 2700 employees who maintain four core values of honesty, integrity, stewardship, and respect. The City is governed by a council-manager form of government with a mayor and eight council members. For more information on the City of Greensboro, please visit us online at www.greensboro-nc.gov.

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